

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for restricting a message service in a communication network, wherein
at least a sender (12, 13, 14) and a recipient (12, 13, 14) of a message communication in said network are identifiable by a respective address (A12, A13, A14); said method comprising:
the steps of
keeping a record (28) containing information about certain addresses with which a message communication is not allowed in a switching center of the communication network;
deciding (S30A) in the switching center whether a message communication with a certain address is allowed or not, and writing (S26) information of unallowed addresses in said record (28), thus determining contents of said record (28);
receiving a request for establishing a message communication (S30);
analyzing (S31, S27, S32) on the basis of the information in the record whether a message communication is allowed; and
preventing (S29) in the switching center the transmission of a message if said message is related to an unallowed address according to the analyzing step, wherein
each of said decision step (S30A) and said preventing step (S29) is done in a switching center (11, 15) of said communication network, and said record (28) is kept in said switching center (11, 15).
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said sender and said receiver at least one recipient of the message communication is a message service center (14).
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said switching center is a visited switching center (11), to which a terminal of a subscriber being involved in said message communication is related at a time when said message is to be transmitted.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said switching center is an interworking switching center ~~(15)~~.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said contents of said record are subscriber specific.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said record is common to a group of subscribers.
7. (Currently Amended) A ~~network capable of restricting a message service system~~, comprising:
at least one sender ~~(12, 13, 14)~~ and one recipient ~~(12, 13, 14)~~, wherein each has an address ~~(A12, A13, A14)~~;
a plurality of switching centers, wherein a terminal is always related to a visited switching center ~~(11)~~;
a record ~~(28)~~ in which information about unallowed addresses is written;
an ~~analyzing means (27)~~ analyzer for analyzing with the help of said record ~~(28)~~ whether an address is unallowed;
~~means (29);~~ a prevention module operable to prevent transmission of a message if said message is related to an address which is unallowed according to the analysis of the ~~analyzing means (27) analyzer~~; and
a decision means entity (26) for deciding on a permission for an address in a message communication, wherein
said record ~~(28)~~, said ~~analyzing means (27) analyzer~~, said ~~preventing means (29) prevention module~~ and said decision ~~means (26) entity~~ are located in each of said plurality of switching centers ~~(11)~~.
8. (Currently Amended) A ~~network~~ The system according to claim 7, wherein one of said sender and said recipient is a message service center ~~(14)~~.
9. (Currently Amended) A ~~network~~ The system according to claim 7, further comprising at least one interworking switching center ~~(15)~~, wherein said record ~~(28)~~, said ~~analyzing means~~

~~(27)analyzer~~, said ~~preventing means (29)prevention module~~ and said decision ~~means (26)entity~~ are located in said interworking switching center-~~(15)~~.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A network element~~An apparatus capable of restricting a message service between at least one sender-~~(12, 13, 14)~~ and one recipient-~~(12, 13, 14)~~, wherein each has an address-~~(A12, A13, A14)~~, said apparatus comprising:

a record ~~(28)~~ in which information about unallowed addresses is written;
~~an analyzing means (27)~~ for analyzing with the help of said record-~~(28)~~ whether an address is unallowed;

~~means (29)~~, ~~operable to prevent~~for preventing transmission of a message if said message is related to an address which is unallowed according to the analysis of the ~~analyzing means (27)~~ for analyzing (27); and

~~decision means (26)~~ for deciding on a permission for an address in a message communication, wherein

said record-~~(28)~~, said ~~analyzing means (27)~~ for analyzing (27), said ~~preventing means (29)~~ for preventing (29) and said ~~decision means (26)~~ for deciding (26) are located in said ~~network element~~apparatus comprising a switching center.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The network element~~The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said record in which information about unallowed addresses is written relates to at least one address corresponding to said at least one sender originating a message to ~~a the~~ switching center for further communication to said recipient via a message service center of said ~~a~~ network.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~network system~~ of claim 7, wherein said record in which information about unallowed addresses is written relates to at least one address corresponding to said at least one sender originating a message to ~~a one of said plurality of switching center~~ centers for further communication to said recipient via a message service center of said network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said record containing information about certain addresses with which said message communication is not allowed relates to an address of said sender originating said message communication to said switching center for further communication to said recipient via a message service center of said communication network.

15. (New) An apparatus capable of restricting a message service between at least one sender and one recipient, wherein each has an address, said apparatus comprising:

- a record in which information about unallowed addresses is written;
- an analyzer configured to analyze, with the help of said record, whether an address is unallowed;
- a prevention module configured to prevent transmission of a message if said message is related to an address which is unallowed according to the analysis of the analyzer; and
- a decision entity configured to decide on a permission for an address in a message communication;

wherein said record, said analyzer, said prevention module and said decision entity are located in said apparatus comprising a switching center.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said record in which information about unallowed addresses is written relates to at least one address corresponding to said at least one sender originating a message to the switching center for further communication to said recipient via a message service center of a network.

17. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor, wherein said computer program code comprises instructions for performing a method according to claim 1.